REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application. In

response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable

subject matter.

I. Overview of the Office Action

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being

anticipated by McNabb et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,462, hereafter, "McNabb"). Claims 5, 6,

13, 14, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNabb in

view of Tashenberg (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0034711). Claims 8, 16, and

24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNabb in view of

Hepworth (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0032920).

II. Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner alleges that McNabb discloses all of the features of claims 1, 9, and 17.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

Amended independent claim 1 and analogous independent claims 9 and 17 recite in part:

> receiving the request at the database, from the requestor, to access the contents of
> the classified table elements; for each classified table element, the database asking
> the classification engine to provide an indication of whether the requestor
> associated with the request is to be permitted access to the contents of the
> respective classified table element.

There is no teaching or suggestion in McNabb that a <u>database</u> receives a request from a

requestor to access contents of classified table elements, and that <u>the database</u> asks a

11

classification engine to provide an indication as to whether a requestor associated with a request is permitted to access the classified table elements as claimed.

The Examiner appears to read the claimed classification engine on the Security Gate (element 504, FIG. 9), and the claimed database on the Back-end Database Server (element 510, FIG. 9) of McNabb. However, it is quite clear from the disclosure of FIG. 9 of McNabb that a request 502 is sent to the Security Gate 504, and not to the database as required by the claims. McNabb further discloses that requests that are processed at a web server 500 are handled by the Security Gate 504 (column 14, lines 18-26).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, 9, and 17 should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims. Claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-24 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 9, and 17.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.
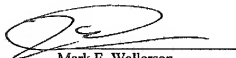
Applicant files concurrently herewith a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of one month, thereby extending the time for response to __July 7, 2007__. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16

and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or

credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Mark E. Wallerson
Registration No. 59,043

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/142133

46159

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 20, 2007